United Nations A/72/407

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 November 2017

Original: English

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 97

Prevention of an arms race in outer space

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Martin **Ngundze** (South Africa)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled:

"Prevention of an arms race in outer space:

"(a) Prevention of an arms race in outer space;

"(b) No first placement of weapons in outer space"

was included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions 71/31 and 71/32 of 5 December 2016.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 September 2017, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 28 September 2017, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 52 (b), 90 to 106. At its 2nd to 9th meetings, from 2 to 6 and on 9 and 10 October, the Committee held a general debate on those items. At its 9th meeting, on 10 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on the follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee at previous sessions and the presentation of reports. At its 10th meeting, on 11 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament. The Committee also held 14 meetings (10th to 23rd), from 11 to 13, from 16 to 18, on 20 and from 23 to 26 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with independent experts. At those meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft resolutions were introduced and considered. The Committee took action

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on all draft resolutions and decisions at its 24th to 28th meetings, on 27, 30 and 31 October and on 1 and 2 November.[1]

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Conference on Disarmament (A/72/27).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.3

5. On 12 October, the representatives of Sri Lanka and Egypt, on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Belarus, China, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic and Thailand, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (A/C.1/72/L.3). Subsequently, Armenia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Ghana, Honduras, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 25th meeting on 30 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.3 by a recorded vote of 175 to none, with 2 abstentions (see para. 12, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:[2]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname,

[1] For an account of the Committee's discussion of the item, see A/C.1/72/PV.2, A/C.1/72/PV.3, A/C.1/72/PV.4, A/C.1/72/PV.5, A/C.1/72/PV.6, A/C.1/72/PV.7, A/C.1/72/PV.8, A/C.1/72/PV.9, A/C.1/72/PV.10, A/C.1/72/PV.11, A/C.1/72/PV.12, A/C.1/72/PV.13, A/C.1/72/PV.14, A/C.1/72/PV.15, A/C.1/72/PV.16, A/C.1/72/PV.17, A/C.1/72/PV.18, A/C.1/72/PV.19, A/C.1/72/PV.20, A/C.1/72/PV.21, A/C.1/72/PV.22, A/C.1/72/PV.23, A/C.1/72/PV.24, A/C.1/72/PV.25, A/C.1/72/PV.26, A/C.1/72/PV.27 and A/C.1/72/PV.28.

[2] Subsequently, the delegation of Ghana informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Israel, United States of America.

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.53

7. On 12 October, the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, El Salvador, Guinea, Kazakhstan, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Myanmar, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the Sudan, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe, submitted a draft resolution entitled "No first placement of weapons in outer space" (A/C.1/72/L.53). Subsequently, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, Eritrea, Honduras, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

8. At its 25th meeting on 30 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.53 by a recorded vote of 122 to 4, with 48 abstentions (see para. 12, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:[3]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

[3] Subsequently, the delegation of Ghana informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

Against:

Georgia, Israel, Ukraine, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

C. Draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.54

9. On 23 October, the representatives of China and the Russian Federation, on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Belarus, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Guinea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia and Zimbabwe, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space" (A/C.1/72/L.54). Subsequently, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Namibia, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

10. At the 25th meeting on 30 October, the Secretary informed the Committee that a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.54 had been issued as document A/C.1/72/L.60.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.54 by a recorded vote of 121 to 5, with 45 abstentions (see para. 12, draft resolution III). The voting was as follows:[4]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United

[4] Subsequently, the delegation of Ghana informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

France, Israel, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

12. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Prevention of an arms race in outer space

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Reaffirming the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

Reaffirming also the provisions of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,[1]

Recalling the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

Reaffirming paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] in which it is stated that, in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this issue, the most recent of which is resolution 71/31 of 5 December 2016, and taking note of the proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and at its regular sessions and of the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament,

Recognizing that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,

Considering that wide participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into account its previous efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

[2] Resolution S-10/2.

Noting also that there were no objections in principle in the Conference on Disarmament to the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, subject to re-examination of the mandate contained in the decision of the Conference on Disarmament of 13 February 1992,[3]

Emphasizing the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and hoping that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible,

Convinced that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

Stressing that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community,

Recalling, in this context, its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990, 47/51 of 9 December 1992 and 48/74 A of 16 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it reaffirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Conscious of the benefits of confidence- and security-building measures in the military field,

Recognizing that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain a priority task of the Conference on Disarmament and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements,

Noting with satisfaction the constructive, structured and focused debate on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at the Conference on Disarmament in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017,

Noting the introduction by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament of the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects in 2008 and the submission of its updated version in 2014,[4]

Taking note of the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to establish for its 2009 session a working group to discuss, substantially, without limitation, all issues related to the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;[1]

2. *Reaffirms its recognition*, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that the regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness and that it is important to comply strictly with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/47/27), para. 76.

[4] See CD/1839 and CD/1985.

3. *Emphasizes* the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;

4. *Calls upon* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

5. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

6. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to establish a working group under its agenda item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" as early as possible during its 2018 session;

7. *Recognizes*, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space;

8. *Urges* States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities, to keep the Conference on Disarmament informed of the progress of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the matter, if any, so as to facilitate its work;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

Draft resolution II
No first placement of weapons in outer space

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of all humankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space and of outer space turning into an arena for military confrontation, and bearing in mind the importance of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,[1]

Conscious that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger to international peace and security,

Reaffirming that practical measures should be examined and taken in the search for agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space in a common effort towards a community of shared future for humankind,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with the existing legal regime providing for the peaceful use of outer space,

Reaffirming its recognition that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee prevention of an arms race in outer space and that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime,

Welcoming, in this regard, the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, introduced by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament in 2008,[2] and the submission of its updated version in 2014,[3]

Considering that transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities are an integral part of the draft treaty referred to above,

Recalling its resolutions 69/32 of 2 December 2014, 70/27 of 7 December 2015 and 71/32 of 5 December 2016, and its resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990 and 48/74 B of 16 December 1993, which, inter alia, confirm the importance of transparency and confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Noting the importance of the political statements made by a number of States[4] that they would not be the first to place weapons in outer space,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of the objective to prevent an arms race in outer space and the willingness of States to contribute to reaching this common goal;

2. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral negotiating forum on this subject,[5] has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement, or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

[2] See CD/1839.

[3] See CD/1985.

[4] Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

[5] See resolution S-10/2.

3. *Urges* an early commencement of substantive work based on the updated draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects,[3] introduced by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament in 2008,[2] under the agenda item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space";

4. *Stresses* that, while such an agreement is not yet concluded, other measures may contribute to ensuring that weapons are not placed in outer space;

5. *Encourages* all States, especially space-faring nations, to consider the possibility of upholding, as appropriate, a political commitment not to be the first to place weapons in outer space;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "No first placement of weapons in outer space".

Draft resolution III
Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 71/31 and 71/32 of 5 December 2016 and 71/90 of 6 December 2016, as well as its other resolutions on this subject,

Encouraging all States to contribute actively to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, especially the placement of weapons in outer space, as well as the use of force against space objects, with a view to promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, with the objective of shaping a community of shared future for mankind,

Recognizing that the prevention of an arms race, especially of the placement of weapons in outer space, would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

Reaffirming that practical measures should be examined and taken in the search for agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space,

Recognizing the primary role and responsibility of the Conference on Disarmament in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements on the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

1. *Expresses its deep regret* over the years of stalemate in the work of the Conference on Disarmament, and looks forward to the Conference again fulfilling its mandate as the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum;

2. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to agree on and implement at its earliest opportunity a balanced and comprehensive programme of work that includes the immediate commencement of negotiations on an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations Group of Governmental Experts, with a membership of up to 25 Member States, chosen on the basis of fair and equitable geographical representation, to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space;

4. *Decides* that the newly established Group of Governmental Experts will operate by consensus, without prejudice to national positions in future negotiations, and hold two 2-week sessions in Geneva, one in 2018 and the other in 2019;

5. *Requests* the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts to organize, in New York, a two-day open-ended intersessional informal consultative meeting, in 2019, so that all Member States can engage in interactive discussions and share their views on the basis of a report on the work of the Group to be provided by the Chair in his own capacity;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Group of Governmental Experts to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session and to the Conference on Disarmament prior to its 2020 session;

7. *Decides* that, if the Conference on Disarmament agrees upon and implements a balanced and comprehensive programme of work that includes the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms

race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, the newly established Group of Governmental Experts will conclude its work and submit the results thereof to the Secretary-General for onward transmission to the Conference on Disarmament;

8. *Also* decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session an item entitled "Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space".